STATE OF IDAHO Department of Fish and Game

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF SPRING CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD STOCKS

Project No. 88E25032 Contract No. 03-78-M02-40

Period Covered: January 1 to March 31, 1978

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

May, 1978

Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook and Steelhead Stocks

Channel tenders at Indian Creek and Crooked River channels reported no problems during the quarter.

Observing Success of Egg Hatching

Snowmobile trips were made in January and March into Indian Creek. During January we had a period of cold weather followed by an extended period of warm weather which caused high flows. The channel did not appear to have suffered any from he flow variations as little siltation was noticed and live fry were found in all sections of the channel. During the March trip, the same situation was observed. There was also over five feet of snow left on Nez Perce Pass. This is considerably higher than last year at the same time. The water content is also high which could pose a threat to the channel if we experience a sudden, high runoff. Having a tender stationed at the channel again proved invaluable during periods of variable flows.

No major problems were encountered during the quarter at Crooked River channel. The warm weather during January caused some minor siltation, but nothing major. Numerous alevins were observed in all sections of the channel during all visits.

Mullan Hatchery

Mullan Hatchery is rearing over 800,000 chinook fry which are scheduled to be released in various locations of the Lochsa River during late spring.

Submitted by:

Steven A. Hoss Regional Fishery Biologist